Clearance of Petroleum Products

350. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have taken any decision allowing private organisations/bodies to get their Petroleum projects cleared from Government;

(b) if so, the parameter fixed therefor; and

(c) by when the country would be able to attain self sufficiency in production of Petroleum Products and various steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Following liberalisation of policies, the Government have approved some petroleum projects in the private sector, depending on the technoeconomic viability of the projects and capacity of the enterpreneurs to mobilise the requisite financial resources.

(c) If the projects so far cleared are completed in time the refining capacity would be adequate to meet the demand.

Gap Between Demand and supply of Petroleum and its Products

351. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to reduce the ever widening gap between the demand and indigenous supply of petrol, petroleum products and natrual gas;

(b) what is the anticipated demand of petrol, diesel and other petroleum products and natrual gas for the year 1992-93 and to what extent the indigenous supply is expected under each item; and

(c) the anticipated foreign exchange burden on Indian exchequer due to the imports of petrol and petroleum products in the year 1992-93;

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Following steps are being taken in this regard:

(i) increase in the refining capacity in the country;

(ii) increase in the indigenous crude and natural gas production; and

(iii) maximising conservation efforts.

(b) During 1992-93 the estimated demand of petroleum products is likely to be 60,290 TMT against the estimated indigenous production of 50,794 TMT. The estimated production of Natural gas during 1992-93 is 18.3 billion cubic meters.

(c) The oil import bill would depend upon the prices prevailing in the international market and the quantities to be imported.

Compressed Natural Gas Cylinders in Cars

352. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention is drawn to the newsitem under the caption "Bombay Taxis Go Green" which appeared in "India Today" dated the 15th November, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to make CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) cylinders which can be fitted into dickies of cars; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the first phase of the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) development programme being introduced in Bombay from January, 1993 by the Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) 50 petrol driven cars including taxies are planned to be